GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3207
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2001
REPORT ON WATER HARVESTING AND FLOOD CONTROL
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report has been submitted to the Union Government for water harvesting and to deal with floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to deal with such situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government expect better water harvesting after the implementation of the plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (f) As per available information no such report for water harvesting has been submitted to the Union Government. However, the Central Ground Water Board constituted an internal group to undertake a study to prepare a conceptual framework for estimating the additional ground water resources that could be available by arresting the surplus monsoon run-off and storing in the sub-surface aquifer. Accordingly a conceptual framework of a National Perspective Plan for recharge to ground water by utilizing surplus monsoon run-off has been prepared. The salient features of the plan are:-

(i) In the 20 river basins in the country surplus monsoon run-off available has been estimated as 86.47 million hectare metres;

(ii) Keeping in view the present depth to water and the void space available, it would be possible to create surplus potential of 59.06 million hectares by saturating the aquifer. Out of this storage, it would be possible to retrieve 43.64 million hectare metres;

(iii) However, on the basis of the available surplus monsoon run-off, which is not uniform in time and space, the ground water storage that could be feasible has been estimated as 21.42 million hectare metres of which about 16 million hectare metres is considered retrievable; and

(iv) The above resource could be harnessed to create an irrigation potential of 32.00 million hectares.

As regards floods, the Government of India constituted several expert committees to study the problem of floods in the country. The Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) set upin 1976 examined the problem in detail and submitted its report in 1980. The recommendations of RBA, which formthe framework for flood management strategy in the country, were forwarded to various State Governments for implementation. Further, a number of other Expert Committees/Task Forces were constituted from time to time to examine the area/region specific problems relating to floods, whose recommendations were sent to the respective State Governments for implementation. Besides this, the Government of India has set up Ganga Flood Control Commission to tackle theflood problem in Ganga basin, which has prepared comprehensive plans for flood management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga basin. Similarly, the Brahmaputra Boardset up by the Government of India undera n Actof Parliamenthas prepared Master Plan for main Brahmaputra & Barak valley inter-alia to control floods in North Eastern region. These plans have been forwarded to respective State Governments for preparing detailed schemes based on ground surveys and for implementation. The Central Water Commission has also set up 159 Flood Forecasting Stationson major interstate rivers which give timely warning to flood affected regions in various States.